PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Although the PERSONALITY of whom we write this month is not old — either by modern standards of age, or by the impatient of any faculties — he has crowded a lifetime of experience into his span of years.

Throughout his busy life, the "up-and-downs" of existence have been met with the saving grace of humor, and this priceless possession, plus qualities of candor, efficiency, and understanding, make him a man who stands high in popularity and esteem of his colleagues.

This introduction is supported by his life story and we present, with pride, our PERSONALITY of the month:

MR. MALCOLM DUNCAN-FORBES
Supervisor, Despatch Department, Collingwood.

"Mal," as he is known throughout the Foy's organisation, was born at South Melbourne, and received his education at the famous Albert Park State School, where a celebrated predecessor was the late Sir Frank Beaurepaire, later to grace the position of Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

The name of Forbes was well-known and highly-respected in the industrial suburb of "Mal's" birth. His father — the late Donald Forbes — had followed in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor to take up residence in South Gippsland, but successive bush fires proved disastrous, and the family moved to Melbourne, where conditions proved to be more prosperous.

It's interesting to know that of the six children born to the marriage of Donald Forbes and Sarah McPhail, all are still alive and fortunately endowed with good health.

"Mal's" first job on leaving school at 14 years of age, was as a junior packer with John Paton, Son and Coy. (later Paton's Wooll's) in Flinders Lane. Despite a later advancement to office boy, the inquisitive mind to travel was in his blood and after two years of office work, he attempted a short-lived sea career aboard a Swedish sailing ship. We shudder to think of the fact that his parents promptly cancelled the papers when the venture became known. Some consolation, however, was found in young Forbes' next employment, which was for two years an undermanned carrier at Collingwood.

In this period of two years, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, Sr., had purchased a large residential in Collingwood. The demands of caring for 20 boarders necessitated assistance, and our friend relinquished his country job to assist his parents in their strenuous undertaking.

After some time in this sphere, an opportunity was offered to young Forbes at McArthur's Estate Agency, South Melbourne.

Part of the duties here consisted of the collection of rents in the South and Port Melbourne districts. This job our PERSONALITY considers to have been his toughest assignment. As he states himself: "Things were tough in those days, and sometimes a request for overdue rent would be met by the promise of physical violence. And some of the tough citizens who were tenants, just as much as the boys put the threat into actual operation."

"Mal" stuck at this job for six hard years. Then followed an unusual change! Always a good billiards player, he was selected to play in a tournament at Yarram (first prize a suit to the value of £10), and impressed the salon owner so much with his prowess, that he was offered and accepted, a partnership in the local billiards centre.

Although the partnership proved profitable, an unexpected bout of ill-health compelled the young man to cease at Yarram.

In rapid succession, work was followed in his parents' shop at Hawthorn, then back at the resident in Canterbury Road. The Depression dealt both of these activities some distressing blows, so our friend and a brother set up a stall-holders' business at the Victoria Market. For two years the market business paid dividends, and, having acquired a small capital, Mr. Forbes decided to set up for himself as a travelling sales representative.

An old "Oakland" tower was purchased for £50, rendered redolent, and Mal took to the road! He certainly couldn't complain about the size of his territory, for it covered a big slice of Australia, viz.:—From Orbost in South Gippsland, along the valley of the Darling River to the famous "Back of Bourke," so celebrated in song and story.

People who live in the cities have only faint ideas of the hazards that would ensue in such a territory. Floods, droughts, rough roads, flies, thirst and, indeed, all of those adverse conditions that really try the mettle of a man.

For seven years, Mr. Forbes and his mobile sales unit were familiar and welcome features of the outback scene. The infantile paralysis outbreak of 1937 meant a great loss of custom, and the project was abandoned in that year.

Employment was hard to find at that time, and our friend became a cartage contractor for the Richmond Brewery. The contract barely paid wages, and when "Mal" was seeking similar types of labor, with better rates, he submitted a successful quote to Collingwood Despatch for the contract job of delivering parcels.

As you would expect from Mr. Forbes, his work was punctually satisfactory, and the contract lasted over the Christmas and New Year periods up to the end of April, 1938.

On 13th May, 1938, Mr. Forbes became a permanent driver at the Despatch Department. He has remained in that important activity ever since, and by the exercise of his inherited qualities, has risen through the ranks of Senior Driver, Checker, Assistant to the Despatch Manager, to his present classification of Supervisor.

In his 27 years at Despatch Mr. Forbes can recall many events. Among these could be mentioned —

• His Air Raid Wardenship during the "black" (in more ways than one) period of the War.

• The time closely followed by the catastrophic bush fires of "Black Friday" of January, 1939. Red Cross called for volunteers to drive relief vans to the stricken Nynage area, and "Mal" and a colleague (Mr. D. Jackson) were amongst the many drivers who responded. Leaving the city at 7 p.m., arriving at Nynage at 11 p.m., unloading the trucks, then a hurried meal, and back to the city at 4 a.m. on duty at Despatch by 7.30 a.m. same day was the arduous schedule.

• Shifting Aakins stock in stock.

• Loading a complete one-piece carpet (that took 17 men to handle) for delivery to, and laying at, Glen's, Elizabeth St.

• Removing the contents of our Collingwood branch to a new location in Queen Street for the American armed services during the war. The problem here was the colossal and heavy safe that could only be "jiggled" by inches onto the largest truck.

• The Fair of 1939, which "Mal" estimates to be the largest event he had seen, and which necessitated Despatch men being on duty from 6 a.m. to as late as 8 a.m. in the morning.

In private life, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes live at 24 May St., Preston.

The principal interest of their lives centre around their four married daughters and their four grandchildren. Whatever spare time is available is devoted to gardening and reading.

This, then, is the life story of a fine character fully entitled to, and receiving, the respect and esteem of his colleagues and numerous friends — Mr. "Mal" Forbes of Despatch.

Mr. LAURIE MARSHALL
Returns to Duty After Illness

Mr. Laurie Marshall, Store Manager, has returned home after his recent operation at the Mercy Hospital. We're glad to report that this popular executive is making very good progress. All ranks in Foy's organisation convey to Mr. Marshall every good wish for a quick and lasting recovery.
EDITORIAL

The subject we deal with in this month's Editorial is entitled SHOPLIFTING — A RETAILER'S PROBLEM. The problem is not a new one. Over 50 years ago, the Retail Traders' Association discussed this matter at length, and conducted a subsequent campaign in the Press so that the evil might be "high-lighted".

The problem has recurred regularly over the intervening years. It would be safe to state that the increase of population, modern merchandising methods that feature self-service and shoplifting, and the greater range of goods offered in tempting variety have played their part in accentuating the evil, and certainly of adding to the great losses caused by petty pilfering in all types, and sizes, of Retail Stores.

Although it is not possible to accurately assess the total loss incurred by this type of theft, experts consider that it would not be an exaggeration to state that an average of between 1½ and 2½% might be a reasonable figure of total retail depletions. When this it is applied to an approximately £22 million turnover of merchandise, and stated in cold terms of hard cash, the national bill for shoplifting reaches the colossal figure of between £3.5 million and £10 million.

SHOPLIFTING is not only an economic problem, but also a grave one on an individual and social consciousness. Quite a number of people regard it as a minor offence, and in the same category as breaking a parking barrier, or evading income tax. Others regard it as a minor moral deviation, or a phase common to adventuress would it not be? It is reducible to simple and understanding language, SHOPLIFTING IS THEFT, or LARGENY, and should always be classed, and treated, as such.

Not only is it THEFT, but it is also a particularly despicable form of thieving. It is tempting to find some sort of gratifying admission for the bank-robber who risks freedom, life and limb, in an audacious theft; it is IMPOSSIBLE to have any admiration for the futile thief whose most daring exploit is to take an item of merchandise when the owner's back is turned.

Sometimes the motive for SHOPLIFTING is bravo, or the desire of irresponsible youngsters to "prove" themselves, sometimes it is sheer inability to resist temptation — a moral weakness possibly having its origin in the upbringing of the individual, or environment of the offender — sometimes, from economic compulsion, and, less frequently, from a physical, or mental cause. Whatever the reason, the results are the same. The cure for this social disorder rests with Society, which should educate the public to a proper appreciation of this unpleasant form of crime, and re- tailers who are not fully aware of the gravity of the offence, and take all reasonable measures to overcome it.

(1) Consistent domestic discipline for children in the home;
(2) Public education on the undesirable nature of petty thieving;
(3) Summary penalties for convicted offenders for whom it is considered that punishment may be effective;
(4) Better security methods by retailers making SHOPLIFTING difficult and hazardous.

There's an old saying which states: — "The price of Liberty is eternal vigilance." We can adapt this truth to the subject of SHOPLIFTING by stating "The basis of Security is eternal vigilance." YOU, then, should always be on your guard against the ever-present evil by:

• KEEPING YOUR SENSES ALERT TO POSSIBLE THEFT;
• PAID ATTENTION TO YOUR OBSERVATION;
• A SUSPECT UNTIL YOUR OBLIGATION IS TAKEN OVER BY AN AUTHORIZED PERSON;
• BEING ABSOLUTELY SURE OF YOUR FACTS BEFORE YOU TAKE ACTION;
• PROMPTLY REPORTING A REALISTIC SUSPICION OCCURRING TO YOUR SUPERIOR WHEN YOU OBSERVE, AND ARE SURE OF IT!

ENGAGEMENTS

Sincere congratulations are conveyed to the following staff members, whose engagements have been recently announced:

Miss Margaret Watts, Wool Department, Valetta (Bendigo) and Mr. Len Clarke.

Miss Carole Crossley, Young People's World, Myers (Bendigo) and Mr. Alan Bowles.

Miss Margaret Schwarz, Haberdashery, Morsheads, Ballarat, and Mr. Robert Delan.

Pat Jones, Haberdashery, Bright and Hitchcocks, Geelong, and Mr. Ron Pelley.

Jennifer Jones, Cosmetics, Bowrings, Mildura, and Mr. Ivan Bryce.

Miss Raylene Lattin, Upstairs Office, Bowrings, and Mr. Leonard Scholdt.

Miss Ann Murphy, Invoice Office, Collingwood, and Mr. Robert Dobson.

MARRIAGES

Every good wish for future happiness, health and prosperity to the following people who recently celebrated their marriage:

Miss J. Kendrick, Blouse Department, City Store, and Mr. M. Griffiths, Lino Reserve, Collingwood.

BIRTHS

Foy's "News Service" extends its congratulations to the following parents, who were recently blessed with an addition to their family:

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kelly, a daughter (Elizabeth Andrea). Mr. Brian is a member of the Manchester Department Staff, Morsheads.

OBITUARY

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the relatives, and friends, of the esteemed people whose deaths we record hereunder:

Miss Dorothy Greely, sister of Mr. E. Greely, Materials Department, City Store.

Mr. Clark, father-in-law of Mr. Clive Williamson, Boyswear, Morsheads, Ballarat.

Mr. Twitt, father of Miss Cheryl Twitt, Sportswear, Bright and Hitchcocks, Geelong.

Mr. George H. Thomas, brother of Mr. A. I. Thomas, Merchandise Department, City Store.

Mr. H. Keeble, father of Mr. W. Keeble, Hardware, Bowrings, Mildura.

Mr. Joseph Brown, father of Mrs. Roberts, Frock Department, City Store.

Mr. Uren, brother of Mrs. Fraser, Frock Department, City Store.

Mr. Gerald Bull, brother-in-law of Mrs. C. Campbell, Switchboard, Prahran Store.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the request of the staff members named in this column, we convey to all of our readers, and colleagues, the following expressions of appreciation:

From Mrs. J. Roberts, Frock Department, City Store, for the many messages of sympathy received on the death of her father.

From Miss G. Clark, Cash Office, Prahran, for the numerous condolence messages received on the death of her mother.

DANDEPONG

In a very small budget of news from our correspondent at Partons, we note that the following staff have returned from holidays:

Mrs. Middleton, Miss Gerritsen, Mr. Buckman, and Mr. Jacks.

All report that the said holidays were most enjoyable, but all pose the eternal question: "When's the next?"

Arrangements are well in hand for the proposed trip to Mount Buffalo at the end of July, and staff are looking forward to yet another in a long list of Social Club successes.

Members of the Social Club have been invited to an Exhibition of Billiards in the near future. Two of the foremost local exponents of the great game are to display their prowess, and the personnel are keenly anticipating a first-class function.

Mr. & Mrs. DURBELOW OF CHADSTONE CELEBRATE 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. M. Albury, Chadstone celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on the 13th of June. To the many congratulations given to a popular couple, "News Service" adds its sincere contribution.

Mr. & Mrs. DURBELOW OF CHADSTONE CELEBRATE 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. M. Albury, Chadstone celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on the 13th of June. To the many congratulations given to a popular couple, "News Service" adds its sincere contribution.

Mr. & Mrs. DURBELOW OF CHADSTONE CELEBRATE 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. M. Albury, Chadstone celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on the 13th of June. To the many congratulations given to a popular couple, "News Service" adds its sincere contribution.
SUMMARIZED, we emphasize the main features of the coming night-of-nights—:

DATE: THURSDAY, AUG. 19.
PLACE: PALAIS DE DANSE.
DANCING, FLOATING DOWNS, SUPPER, REFRESHMENTS.

BOOK NOW
NO CROWDS
NO DISAPPOINTMENT

PRAHRAN

Staff movements during the month were as follows:

NEW STAFF—Miss Anderson (Fashions); Mrs. L. Chow (Gorgets); Mrs. Drinker (Shoes).

TRANSFER—Mr. Reg. Myers, Social Club Secretary, of the Governor Hotham Hotel, Hawthorn, to Mr. John Goughlin, licensee of the Chadstone Store Social Club.

PRAHRAN

A SLIGHT ERROR IN LOCATION

An interesting information of the Arthur Beveridge Party took place after the guests had dispersed into the outer darkness and all were on their respective ways home. One prominent guest (No Names, No Pack Drill) drove off in an easterly direction to drop some passengers in Eastern suburbs. Having nobly achieved his mission, and some time later, the gentleman concerned was quite nonplussed to find himself driving back in a westerly direction, and heading—like a bewildered honking pigeon—back to the Chapel Street Store. Who? Why? or When? Sweet charity precludes us from stating!

COLLINGWOOD

New staff welcomed during the month were Messrs. Geoff Cox (Grocery), Jim Martin (Menswear) and John Morrison (Furniture).

Mr. G. Pascoe (Office) attained the mature age of 21 years on the 1st July. Heartiest congratulations from all staff colleagues and from "News Service" on this very important milestone.

We regret to advise that Mrs. Hester (New's Store) is a hospital inmate at the present time, where the lady is recuperating after a recent accident. To Mrs. Hester, we convey very good wishes for a speedy, and permanent, recovery.

Two popular staff members have returned to duty after most enjoyable vacations. We refer to Miss Neale (Office) who spent a great time motoring in the Tooleybuck district, and Miss Lillian (Sweets Department) who had a sun-drenched three weeks holiday in Queensland.

Quits are all the vogue at the present time. A Tournament for staff members was promoted during the month. The runners very keen opposition, Colin Hall proved his supremacy in an unmistakeable manner.

FOYS ANNUAL BALL

For 1965. Also in the realm of things SOCIAL, but, we hope in sufficient publication time for the great event, we have been favored with a report from Mr. Reg. Myers, Social Club Secretary, of matters connected with Foys Annual Ball for 1965.

Mr. Myers states that preliminary planning has now been completed and everything promises well for a wonderful night on 19th July, birthday of the lady of the house. Early bookings have been extremely good, and a "bonzer" attendance seems assured. The talented Tori Lunardon of T.V. fame has been engaged and her presence, alone, ensures most enjoyable vocal, and floor, presentations.

Mr. Ken Bandman, and his Display Department, team, will supplement the existing Palais De Danse decorations with most unusual effects, and the floral decorations will be the work of Social Club Committee members themselves.

Mr. Jim Coughlin, licensor of the Governor Hotham Hotel, Hawthorn, ("Manfred") of T.V. racing fame (has kindly consented to cooperate in the matter of choicest refreshments. Whilst on this subject, intending patrons who may be in difficulty with their supplies, can ring Mr. Myers, arrangements will be made to purchase all requirements for the personnel involved, and these will be transported to the Palais without extra charge. The only condition here is that orders MUST be paid for in advance.

FOYS ANNUAL BALL

PRICE: Adults 17/6 per head.
DESTINATION: Mt. Donna Stewart.
FORECAST: Snow falls confidently.
TICKETS: Obtainable Staff Office, Prahran, Collingwood and Chadstone.
RETURN: Leaves Mt. Donna Stewart 4.30 p.m.

BOOKINGS: Close Friday, 16/7/1965.
FORECAST: Snow falls confidently.

TWO COLAC GIRLS MAKE THEIR DEBUT

Two young ladies on the Staff braved the change of the social whirl and attended the July Ball at Geelong. They were Diane Brumley (Wood Department) and Suzanne Ollery (Office). Suzanne achieved four finalists in the four-finalists in the famous for the quality, variety and interest of the merchandise offered. 1965 conformed to the traditions of the past, and added zest was given to the occasion by Miss Colac's reading of the "Hourly Bargains" during the day. This emphasized the slogan of "A bargain on the hour every hour".

A welcome augury for continuing progress.

Two additional members of the Staff were welcomed during the month. They were Mr. John Cull (Electrical) and Mr. Kevin Doberty (Men's Store).

The many friends of Miss Nell Dickson (Ghina Department) will remember that the lady is ill, and is an inmate of Kardiana House Private Hospital at the present time. All at Bright's, and the whole organization, unite in conveying their good wishes for a speedy and permanent recovery to a very real personality.

FOOTBALL WITHOUT TEARS, BUT SOME CHEERS

A "highlight" of the month was the challenge football match between teams from the Geelong Harbor Trust Social Club and Bright's Social Club. The game was played at Hamlyn Heights Recreation Reserve, and a sterling contest saw the Harbor men victorious by a margin of 3 to 0. Best players were Mr. F. Honor (Office) and Mr. M. Thompson, Captain, (General Office), Alan MacCallum and Harry Gazeucke.

Although unexpected bursts of football ability were displayed by most of Bright's team at various stages of the game the consistent efforts of June Gilfay (Office) and her staff of "Cheer on" singers left little to be desired. In all, a wonderful day was had by all who participated.
**MILDURA**

New staff welcomed during the month were:- Miss Eva Kovac (Display), Meses, Wayne Knox (Dress Material), Robert Hunter (Liquor Department) and Mr. W. Evans (Grocery).

**FIRST STAFF BALL A MARKED SUCCESS**

The First Annual Ball ever promoted by Bowring's staff made a most successful entry into the social world during the month of June. The hall was attractively decorated by the Display Department, which chose as its theme "The King and I." An excellent representation of staff was present, and the usual accompaniments to a first-class night were also present in great abundance. All voted the function to be "one of the best yet" and there's no doubt that the successful launching of the Ball makes re-petition a certainty in future years.

**BALLARAT**

New staff welcomed during the month were Miss Mini Goldies (Display), Erwin Sheppard (Dress Fabrics) and Brian Kelly (Manchester).

Margaret Wood attained her 21st Birthday during June. Congratulations to the young lady on this most important event.

All staff, and colleagues in other Stores, will regret to learn that Mr. Max Read, celebrated his 57th Birthday in hospital, where he is at the present time. To the ailing gentleman, we convey good wishes for a permanent and speedy recovery.

The Social Club has arranged a Picture Night for early July. Indications are that the function will be well patronised by the staff.

**POPULAR GIRL QUEST SPLENDID RESULT**

The Ballarat Organaph Popular Girl Quest has concluded and the Centenary Building Fund has benefited greatly from the activity. Although Lorraine Dobben (Miss Bridge Street Traders) did not secure first Place, there is some gratification in the fact that Lorraine obtained Second Place and, backed by her Working Committee, raised the sum of £2,615 for the Appeal.

This magnificent culmination of nearly five months of planning, and of working, reflects credit on all those good people who generously gave their assistance to a good Cause. To them all, Lorraine, and the whole of our organisation, returns a hearty "Thank you, sincerely!"

**CHADSTONE**

That popular pastime extensively cultivated by the geotry who frequent English hostelries - i.e. DARTS - is booming amongst male members of the Chadstone staff. Lunchtime devotees of the sport are gradually improving in accuracy, and there are strong hopes that the lucky "thrower" who eventually hits the bulls-eye will eventually hit the balls-eye too. Two young men showing great promise are John Moores and David Fluhv.

Readers will recall that we reported the news of the 30th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. & Mrs. "Bill" Langford in our last issue. Maybe the shock of so much publicity was too much for "Bill", but it is a fact that, since the report appeared, the gentleman has been absent on sick leave with an attack of mumps. Quite seriously, though, he wishes to express to a good fellow, best wishes for a rapid return to good health.

In the same strain, we express to Miss Bridge Street Traders our con-siderations on her illness, coupled with good wishes for complete recovery.

**ARTICLE 1 DECEIMAL CURRENCY**

"D" day is drawing CLOSER!! 

Although there's no need for panic, it will be readily agreed that too few of our people have really concentrated on becoming familiar with this new currency which will be Australian currency in the years to come.

And it's most important that we should know a good deal about the subject. A Retail Store, and indeed, all Stores, deal directly with the public. We will be ex-pected to answer all of the questions about the new currency, to be able to rapidly convert pounds, shillings and pence into dollars and cents, and to be able to tell customers what an article now marked in Australian (pre-"D" day) prices, will be in the new currency.

"New Service" has already published a number of articles on the subject. DID YOU READ THEM? If you did - "Well and good!" if you didn't, why not check back on previous issues, and try to master the worthwhile information that was given.

In this article we propose to give some facts about writing money amounts in dollars and cents. Don't be under any false impres-sions about decimal currency! It's introduction gives a convenient and certain method of writing money amounts. Accuracy, and there are strong hopes.

**THE CENT SYMBOL**

The cent symbol is simply a small c.

This cent symbol goes AFTER the cent amount. No full stop is required.

It is omitted when the dollar symbol is used.

**EXAMPLES**

- $0.05 or 5c.
- $0.50 or 50c.
- $0.65 or 65c.
- $0.75 or 75c.
- $0.95 or 95c.
- $0.00 or 0c.

**WRITING A SUM LESS THAN $1.**

When writing an amount LESS than one dollar (for example, writing figures in columns) we put an 0 before the decimal point.

The dollar symbol must NEVER be next to the point.

**EXAMPLES**

- $0.05 or 5c.
- $0.25 or 25c.
- $0.35 or 35c.
- $0.75 or 75c.
- $0.95 or 95c.

**WRITING A SUM LESS THAN 10c.**

When writing a cent amount less than ten cents in a dollar-cent expression we put an 0 after the decimal point.

**EXAMPLES**

- $0.00 or 0c.
- $0.05 or 5c.
- $0.10 or 10c.
- $0.15 or 15c.
- $0.20 or 20c.
- $0.25 or 25c.

**SIMPLICITY and CERTAINTY**

When writing money amounts we need both CERTAINTY and SIMPLICITY.

Make sure that the amount you write follows the rules given here:-

**EXAMPLES**

- $0.50 or $0.00
- $2.25
- $0.05 or 5c.
- $2.05

**PLACING THE DECIMAL POINT**

At the base line; centre of numerals.

**TYPE-WRITTEN**

On the base line.

**HANDWRITTEN**

Make it a dash, centre of numerals.

**EXAMPLES HANDWRITTEN**

$3.75
$3.75
$3.75

**BANKING**

$3.75

Write this also as words "Three dollars 75c."
Library Digitised Collections

Author/s:  
Foy & Gibson

Title:  
Foy & Gibson newsletters

Date:  
1947-1967 (incomplete)

Persistent Link:  
http://hdl.handle.net/11343/21262

File Description:  
Foys News Service v.7 no.5 June 1965